

// A special meeting of the Council of the City of Lynchburg, recessed from February 10, was held on the 24th day of February, 2004, at 1:00 P.M., in the Second Floor Training Room, City Hall, Carl B. Hutcherson, Jr., President, presiding. The purpose of the meeting was to conduct a work session regarding several items. The following Members were present:

Present: Adams, Barksdale, Dodson, Foster, Garber, Seiffert, Hutcherson

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Absent:

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// Mr. Gary Case, a member of the Sign Committee, along with City Planner Tom Martin presented an overview regarding proposed changes to the City's sign ordinance. Mr. Case stated that the Committee discussed at length the need to have order, consistency, and elimination of clutter in sign design and scale, while ensuring that businesses could adequately advertise. Mr. Case went on to say that numerous compromises were made amongst Committee members to balance aesthetic and business needs. Several Council Members stated that they would like more time to receive comments from the business community regarding the proposed changes. City Manager Kimball Payne explained that budget meetings have been scheduled for every Tuesday in March and April and that City Council might want to consider conducting a separate work session regarding the proposed changes to the sign ordinance. Following discussion, City Council agreed to conduct a work session regarding the sign ordinance on Wednesday, March 31, at 1:00 p.m. City Council also asked that written comments be forwarded to the Planning Department prior to the March 31 work session. Mr. Payne noted that following the work session, a public hearing would be scheduled for the May 11 Council meeting.

// Mr. Paul Cumiskey, of P. J. Sun, LLC, presented an overview regarding the February 2004 Water and Sewer Rate Study, noting that the proposed rate adjustments would result in composite monthly water and sewer bill increases of approximately 4% for most customers. Mr. Cumiskey explained that the rate adjustments are designed to provide sufficient revenues in the Water and Sewer Funds to cover FY 2005 operating expenses and to meet the debt coverage and fund balance targets established by City Council. Following discussion, it was noted that a public hearing regarding these proposed water and sewer rate increases would be scheduled for the March 9 meeting.

// Utilities Engineer Steve Shenk presented an overview regarding a proposed new program that would enable industrial and commercial customers to apply for relief from the standard sewer rates for water not returned to the sewer system for treatment. Mr. Shenk recommended that The Sewer Bill Adjustment Program become effective on April 1, 2004, and noted that this item is scheduled for formal adoption at the March 9 meeting.

// Legislative Liaison Linda McMinimy provided an update regarding various bills before the 2004 General Assembly, focusing on legislation that would have an impact on Lynchburg.

// Waste Management Director Dave Owen provided an update regarding the City's recycling program, including an overview regarding the recommendations being offered by staff. Mr. Owen explained that the City has been and would continue to explore opportunities for decreased cost and enhanced revenue by partnering with neighboring localities. Following the presentation and discussion, and on motion of

Council Member Adams, seconded by Council Member Garber, Council by the following recorded vote agreed to eliminate the collection of glass from recycling sites, add corrugated (boxes) materials to the recycling program, and use a baler (horizontal) to compact plastics from recycling sites effective October 1, 2004:

Ayes: Adams, Barksdale, Foster, Garber, Seiffert, Hutcherson

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Noes: Dodson

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// City Attorney Walter Erwin provided an overview regarding a proposed change to the City Code to require dumpsters on residential construction sites. Mr. Erwin explained that staff was directed to draft the ordinance in response to a citizen concern regarding trash blowing onto her property from construction sites in the Beacon Hill Subdivision. Council Member Adams questioned whether requiring dumpsters on residential construction sites would change the behavior of the workers and therefore eliminate the problem and suggested that the burden should be placed on the general contractor to see that trash is contained on site. Council Member Seiffert suggested changing the ordinance to require receptacles rather than dumpsters. In response to Council questioning, City Attorney Erwin explained that City inspectors have difficulty in trying to identify the origin of trash once it has blown off site. City Council asked that the ordinance be redrafted and scheduled for further discussion at the March work session. City Council also asked that staff from the Inspections Department be invited to the March work session to speak to the enforcement issue.

// Deputy City Manager Bonnie Svrcek presented additional information regarding the National Citizen Survey, a tool that the City Administration and City Council could use to measure service performance, assess community needs, and make long-range, short-range and strategic plans. In response to Council questioning, Deputy City Manager Svrcek stated that it is proposed that the survey be conducted every two years in time for the results to be available for City Council's annual retreat in August. Council Member Adams stated the he would support the survey on the condition that it is sent to City residents only, not County residents with Lynchburg addresses. Deputy City Manager Svrcek assured City Council that every effort would be made to ensure that the survey is sent to City residents only. On motion of Council Member Adams, seconded by Vice Mayor Dodson, Council by the following recorded vote introduced and laid over to a later meeting for final action Resolution #R-04-019, appropriating \$11,350 to conduct The National Citizen Survey:

Ayes: Adams, Barksdale, Dodson, Foster, Seiffert, Hutcherson

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Noes: Garber

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// During roll call, and in response to Council Member Foster's question, Deputy City Manager Bonnie Svrcek stated that the Greater Lynchburg Transit Company (GLTC) is proposing to discontinue night bus service effective April 1. Council Member Foster expressed concern regarding the impact this action would have on the disabled as well as other citizens within the community who rely on bus transportation as their means of transport to and from their places of employment. Council Member Foster also expressed concern regarding recent statements that it is dangerous to transfer from one bus to another

bus at the Plaza at night. Council Member Foster also suggested that a letter be forwarded to the owners of the Plaza inquiring about their plans for the facility. Council Member Adams informed of a citizen concern regarding the Animal Warden's refusal to respond to a barking dog complaint. In response to Council Member Seiffert's question, City Manager Kimball Payne stated that the City Code requires that addresses be visible on all buildings. Vice Mayor Dodson asked that the worn banners at the Kemper Street Station be replaced, and that City Council be provided an update regarding the impact of the new trash system on the City's Workers Compensation claims. In response to an inquiry by City Manager Payne, City Council voiced no objection to sending a letter in support for HB1182 which would designate the Lynchburg Bypass Bridge across the James River between Amherst County and the City of Lynchburg as the "Monacan Bridge."

// The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

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Clerk of Council